



JPW

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshinori ENDO

Group Art Unit: 2853

Application No.: 10/694,750

Examiner: A. DO

Filed: October 29, 2003

Docket No.: 117633

For: IMAGE-FORMING DEVICE

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the September 13, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Species A, Figures 1-3(d), with traverse.

All claims 1-35 are readable on Species A. All claims 1-35 are generic claims of Species A.

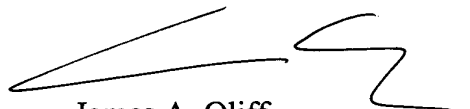
In particular, the present specification describes only one embodiment that shows all features of all claims 1-35 with reference to Figs. 1-3(a). The other figures illustrate a first example (Figs. 3(b)-3(d)), a second example (Figs. 4(a)-4(c)), and a third example (Figs. 5(a)-5(c)) showing how timing data and port data are successively written in a ring buffer. (See the specification at, for example, page 38, lines 10-12.)

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without

serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 12, 2005

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